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MINISTRY ANNOUNCES 1950 CROP PRODUCTION PLANS;
FARMERS GET RICE LOANS

TO INCREASE HEMP, TOBACCO, SILK PRODUCTION -- Peiping Kuang-ming Jih-pao,
31 Mar 50

29 March (Hsin-hua) -- The following directive was issued by the Ministry
of Agriculture with regard to 1950 production plans for hemp, tobacco, and silk.

1. In 1950, more hemp of all three types, Huang, Yang, and Meng, must be
produced to accommodate domestic needs and to increase the exports. The North-
east must produce 320,000 shih tan (one shih tan equals 110.23 pounds) of Yang
hemp, 300,000 shih tan of Meng hemp, and 830,000 shih tan of flax. East China
must produce 800,000 shih tan of various kinds of hemp; North China must pro-
duce 250,000 shih tan of Meng hemp, and try to increase acreage of Yang hemp in
that area. The Central and South China area must produce a sufficient amount
to supply all industrial needs in that area, and the Northwest must experiment
with the cultivation of Yang hemp in that area.

2. The 1950 tobacco output must be large enough to supply all the tobacco
factories in China. This can be done by increasing the acreage over 1949. Ho-
nan Province must plant 300,000 mou; Shantung Province, 200,000 mou; and Anhwei
Province, 100,000 mou. Also, all tobacco-experimenting stations and farms must
try to improve the quality of tobacco and supply all the tobacco-producing areas
with better tobacco seed.

3. The silk industry must maintain its previous annual output and protect
and improve existing mulberry fields, as well as produce better grades of silk-
worm eggs to replace the inferior types.

LEADS FOOD TO AID SPRING PLANTING -- Peiping Kuang-ming Jih-pao, 31 Mar 50

Shanghai, 30 March (Hsin-hua) -- To assist the movement to increase agri-
cultural production in East China, the East China Regional Branch of the Peo-
ple's Bank began lending 112,700,000 catties of rice to the farmers. The main

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purpose of this loan is to give relief to the famine areas and to help the farmers get the seed, fertilizer, farm animals, and farm machinery necessary for spring planting.

Allocation of the loan has been made according to the seriousness of famine and type of crops, as follows: 20 million catties to Northern Kiangsu; 12 million catties to Southern Kiangsu, 18 million catties to Northern Anhwei, 6 million catties to Southern Anhwei; 16 million catties to Chekiang, 8 million catties to Fukien, 27 million catties to Shantung, 4,400,000 catties to areas around Shanghai, and 600,000 catties to Nanking. The interest rates are 1.0 to 1.5 percent per month, payable in kind.

SHANGHAI GETS RICE -- Shanghai Ta Kung Pao, 31 Mar 50

Hankow, 30 March -- Collection of public grain in Central and South China for shipment to the neighboring areas is now in progress. As of 13 March 1950 the following amounts have been collected by Hunan and Kiangsi provinces:

1. Hunan Province, which must send 170 million catties of rice to Shanghai, completed collection of 61.36 percent of the quota, or 104,315,388 catties; of this, 41,592,349 catties have already been shipped.
2. Kiangsi Province, which must send 230 million catties of rice to Shanghai, completed collection of 22.29 percent of the quota, or 51,277,038 catties; of this, 51,114,972 catties have already been shipped.

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